Biometrics: Why We Need Them, Why We Are Afraid of Them

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How did we get involved with biometrics?

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Security Authentication Choices

- Passwords
- Tokens
- SmartCards
- Biometrics

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Authentication Technology Weaknesses

	Password/PIN	Token	SmartCard	Biometrics
Difficulty of Use	Yes	No	No	?
Lost	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stolen	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Forgotten	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Forged	Yes	?	Yes	?
Damaged	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Loaned to others	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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Why did we suggest a biometric middleware?

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Need for Middleware

- Support of multiple biometric API's
- Management of biometric templates
- Normalization of scores
- Technology/device selection
- Management of multiple devices
- Implementation of layered authentication using multiple biometrics
- Support for other authentication technologies
- Support for identification technologies

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Why Are We Afraid of Biometrics?

- Electronic Identity Theft
- Lack of legislation on storage of biometrics
- Lack of legislation on transmission of biometrics
- Lack of community preparation and discussion

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